

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-54. (Canceled)

55. (new) A computer-implemented method for processing and searching user records for user addresses in response to a request therefor, the method comprising:

- a) receiving user record information from a plurality of users, each set of user record information including at least a user record user identifier and a user record user address, and at least a subset of the received sets of user record information each further including a list of one or more list user identifiers and list user addresses;
- b) storing, in a computer storage device, the received sets of user record information as a plurality of user records;
- c) processing, using a computer processing unit, the user records to determine, for each list user address stored in the list of each user record, whether the list user address is the same as any of the user record user addresses of any other user records and storing link information in each user record linking the particular user record to those other user records whose user record user address is the same as a list user address stored in the list of the particular user record, and further processing the user records to determine, for each user record, whether the user record user address thereof is the same as any of the list user addresses from the other user records and further storing link information in each user record linking the particular user record to those

other of the user records which include a list user address which is the same as the particular user record's user record user address;

d) receiving a search request from a user specifying a user identifier for which the corresponding user address is required;

e) identifying the user record of the user making the search request; and

f) searching the stored user records using the link information to produce a list of search results corresponding to the search request, wherein the link information is iteratively used to identify further user records located up to a predetermined number of links from the user record of the user making the search request.

56. (New) The method according to claim 55, wherein at least one or more of the user addresses are telephone numbers.

57. (New) The method according to claim 56, wherein at least some of the telephone numbers are mobile telephone numbers.

58. (New) The method according to claim 55, wherein at least one or more of the user identifiers are the names of registered users.

59. (New) A system for processing and searching user records for user addresses in response to a request therefor, comprising:

a) means for receiving user record information from a plurality of users, each set of user record information including at least a user record user identifier and a user record user address,

and at least a subset of the received sets of user record information each further including a list of one or more list user identifiers and list user addresses;

- b) record storage means for storing the received sets of user record information as a plurality of user records;
- c) record processing means for processing the user records to determine, for each list user address stored in the list of each user record, whether the list user address is the same as any of the user record user addresses of any other user records and storing link information in each user record linking the particular user record to those other user records whose user record user address is the same as a list user address stored in the list of the particular user record, the record processing means being further operable to process the user records to determine, for each user record, whether the user address thereof is the same as any of the list user addresses from the other user records and to store link information in each user record linking the particular user record to those other of the user records which include a list user address which is the same as the particular user record's user address;
- d) means for receiving a search request from a user specifying a user identifier for which the corresponding user address is required;
- e) means for identifying the user record of the user making the search request; and
- f) search means for searching the stored user records using the link information to produce a list of search results corresponding to the search request, wherein the link information is iteratively used to identify further user records located up to a predetermined number of links from the user record of the user making the search request.

60. (New) The system according to claim 59, wherein at least one or more of the user addresses are telephone numbers.

61. (New) The system according to claim 60, wherein at least some of the telephone numbers are mobile telephone numbers.

62. (New) The system according to claim 59, wherein at least one or more of the user identifiers are the names of registered users.